



News Release

US Bureau of Land Management
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459

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BLM Seeks Comment on North Spit Land Sale Environmental Assessment

Coos Bay, OR – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Coos Bay District has completed an environmental assessment for the proposed sale of a parcel of industrial zoned land on the North Spit and is seeking public comments on the documents' contents.

The BLM is asking the public to send comments on the environmental analysis and to identify any additional issues or concerns the planning team may need to address to the assessment. The public has until August 14, 2006 to submit comments to the BLM.

“Basically, we want to know if we’ve missed anything,” said Elaine Raper, Umpqua Field Manager.

The land proposed for sale is a 188 acre parcel located along Transpacific Lane just south of the Weyerhaeuser effluent pond and southwest of the BLM boat ramp. The area includes some wetlands and rare lichen species, as well as being the primary access point to public lands on the North Spit. The parcel would be sold directly to the International Port of Coos Bay.

The environmental assessment discusses three management alternatives and the environmental issues associated with each of the alternatives. With the first alternative, the BLM would not offer the parcel for sale. A second alternative discusses selling the entire 188 acre parcel.

Based on concerns and issues brought forth by the public during the environment assessment process, agency planners have included a third alternative that would offer for sale only 82 of the original 188-acres.

“We heard concerns from the public about the potential loss of wetlands, sensitive plants, and recreation access on the North Spit. We added an alternative that would offer only a portion of the acres for sale in an effort to address these concerns,” added Raper.

With this added alternative, nearly all of the wetlands and much of the sensitive species habitat would remain in federal ownership and only a fraction of the trail system mileage would need to be relocated.

After the comment period closes, the BLM will take into consideration any potential changes to the environmental assessment and then select one of the three management alternatives to implement.

“No matter which alternative is ultimately selected, the BLM will maintain public access to the North Spit’s public lands with a right-of-way agreement,” explained Raper.

Comments can be submitted by mail to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Linda Petterson, 1300 Airport Land, North Bend, OR 97459, by email to coos_bay@blm.gov or by phone to Linda Petterson at (541) 751-4207.

Copies of the North Spit Land Disposal Environmental Assessment are available at the Coos Bay BLM in North Bend or can be mailed by request.

Update on other Activities on BLM managed lands on the North Spit:

- ***Land Sale of 34 Acre Parcel*** – The BLM is in the process of selling a separate 34 acre parcel of industrial zoned land on the North Spit to the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay. An environmental assessment has been completed, a decision to sell the parcel made, and an appraisal completed. A Notice of Realty Action was published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, July 19, 2006, and in the local newspaper on Thursday, July 20, 2006, which invites public comment on that sale.

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